February 2005

Steady

's the Law

When the question is right or wrong, don't cross the line





ROW State

The only peninsula-wide magazine for the 8th U.S. Army Community



An 8th MP Brigade Soldier demostrates Special Response Team tactics.

February 2005 Vol. 3, No. 2

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ROK Steady

Using the law in our decision making process

By Lt. Gen. Charles C. Campbell Commander, 8th U.S. Army

his issue of the ROK
Steady echoes a simple
theme: "It's the law." Keeping the intent of that theme just as
simple, Soldiers are duty bound to
obey the law and ignorance of the
law, be it at home in the U.S. or
stationed abroad, has never been an
excuse for disobeying the law.

Soldiers are privileged to exercise the freedom to choose. On or off duty we make choices. Some are more obvious than others, but we make them and they can have profound consequences to ourselves and to others. The Army grows leaders, and because every Soldier is on a path of becoming a leader, it is

imperative that we take notice of the opportunities we have to choose and the responsibility we have to choose well.

A recurring example where choices are vital is in matters of safety. Safety is more than just a slogan – it's about saving lives and sustaining readiness. Being safe ensures our well being and ensures we're ready to fight tonight. Regardless if our activities are personal or professional, we must choose to assess our activities, choose to eliminate unnecessary risk, and choose to communicate the safest course of action to ourselves, our friends, our family and our fellow Soldiers.

Likewise, being familiar with local laws and customs ensures we make

choices that portray us as responsible, intelligent and respectful individuals. I, your fellow Soldiers

and our Korean hosts notice the results of our choices everyday.

As Soldiers you can be sure you'll be held responsible for your choices.



Campbell

Assess and be aware of your environment. Eliminate unnecessary risk and display the courage to seek sound advice. Doing this ensures you are ready to fight tonight and able to lead yourself and others. Take charge of your choices. Make this your law.



Yongsan MPs check on a driver during a routine traffic stop outside of the Townhouse on Yongsan's main post.

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You Didn't Know



Grimes

by Mary B. Grimes

Armed Forces Network-Korea writer, publicity director

It was supposed to be a day to remember. In many ways, it became more. It became a day I won't ever forget.

It was the day that I would be recognized for the many hours I'd put into doing something I've come to love. Photography. I'd placed in the 2004 8th U.S. Army Photography Contest. It was something to write home about. It was something to be happy about—in a time when most of the news we hear of late, highlights death and dying. It was a time to join with other members of the community who'd also been recognized for their talent and their efforts. It really was a time to celebrate.

Yet, you...whoever you are...wherever you are...wherever you are—without regard to consequences and certainly without compassion, made the lone decision to take away from me...from this community, something that was not yours to take. You violated our sense of security, and attempted to shake the very foundation of our faith, and our trust.

When you entered that parked vehicle, and took my bags, you didn't just take the disks containing my photos, you took hours of my life. You see, I got up early in the morning, to catch the dewdrops on those flowers. I went out day after day in the heat, and humidity ...to catch that hawk owl and woodpecker. You didn't know it, but often times my fingers would grow numb, and my feet would fall asleep. Sometimes, with sweat running down my back, I was tempted to give up hope on those birds ever returning -but you know what? I believed they would, and I was willing to sacrifice both time and energy to be there when they did. I was willing to endure.

You didn't know when you took

my bags, that my medicine was inside. I went without it for nearly a day, but thank goodness for the folks over at the hospital who upon realizing what you'd done, expedited my getting a refill.

You didn't know when you took my bags, that you took 20 plus years of my life when you took my retiree identification card.

You didn't know when you took my bags, that my credit card had been issued to me in good faith...by an institution that believed I'd use it in good faith.

You didn't know when you took my bags, that my rent money came hard this month. I'd tried helping family out back home. No, no, no. I won't bore you with the details because whether my aging mother got her car repaired or her prescriptions filled, would not interest you. Your need for "my" money, apparently was much greater.

You didn't know when you took my bags, that I wouldn't be able to contact my loved ones to tell them that I'd be home late, because "you" had decided they weren't important to me. Instead, you thought it best that they just worry and wonder why I wasn't responding to their calls.

You didn't know when you took my bags, that my friend, the driver and owner of the car, would break down and cry because she felt responsible for my loss. Yes, yes. Didn't I mention that she's had nightmares every since....because "you" violated her as well? You've hardened her.

At this time, however, you needn't worry. The police aren't looking for you. Nor am I. You see, I decided that the best way for me to deal with you, was to pray that no harm comes to you. Can you believe that? You waltz into my life, and literally turn it inside out, and I pray for your welfare. Quite honestly, I think the truth of the matter is I had to take that route, so

as to ensure I do not become like you.

You walk among us. You sit with us and laugh with us. You even know us by name. But when it gets right down to it, I guess we don't really know you. Something tells me you'd prefer to keep it that way. Why wouldn't you? Why chance your boss, your teacher, your coworkers, your parents, your friends and other loved ones, discovering the "real" you...especially after you've worked so hard at deceiving them all?

Well, I just wanted to give you an update. I'm sure you've wondered how things worked out for me. Yes, there were numerous questions: Was the car locked? Where was it parked? Did the event occur in broad daylight? You knew the questions would come...just as you knew I'd be pulled away from work to try and resolve this matter. Right? Of course.

I won't hold you up any longer because I've a feeling that you've some other lives out there you'd like to turn upside down. Why with the holidays not far in the distance, you've probably already begun making plans on how best to prey on other members of this community. I would caution you against doing so, however...because there are some very fine people out there, and once word gets around, you will be found out. It may not be today or tomorrow, but I have no doubt that it is just a matter of time.

There's one more thing. *You* didn't know when you took my bags... that my faith would be increased, and that I'd smile again.

The author is a retired Army NCO who had her belongings illegally taken from a POV on Yongsan South Post during Fall 2004.

Army to fully integrate new uniform by 2005

The Army will be fielding a new combat uniform designed by NCOs and tested by Stryker Brigade Soldiers in Iraq since October 2003.

On the Army's 229th birthday, senior leadership introduced the Army Combat Uniform during a Pentagon cake-cutting ceremony. Soldiers were on display, suited-up in the wrinkle-free uniform with a digitized camouflage pattern.

Three different versions of the ACU have been developed, and more than 10,000 uniforms have been produced and dragged through the sand in Iraq and at Army training centers. Even more are on American production lines to be issued by April 2005 to Soldiers in deploying units. Fielding to the total Army should be complete by December 2007, said officials from the Program Executive Office, known as PEO Soldier.

"This isn't about a cosmetic redesign of the uniform," said Col. John Norwood, the project manager for Clothing and Individual Equipment. "It's a functionality change of the uniform that will improve the ability of Soldiers to execute their combat mission."

Every change was made for a reason. The bottom pockets on the jacket were removed and placed on the shoulder sleeves so Soldiers can have access to them while wearing body armor.

Sgt. Maj. Darvin Taylor, 8th U.S. Army G4 sergeant major, demonstrates the ACU.

The pockets were also tilted forward so that they are easily accessible. Buttons were replaced with zippers that open from the top and bottom to provide comfort while wearing armor.

Patches and tabs are affixed to the uniform with Velcro to give the wearer more flexibility and to save the Soldier money, Myhre said. Soldiers can take the nametapes and patches off their uniforms before laundering, which will add to the lifecycle of the patches. Also the cost to get patches sewn on will be eliminated, he added.

The ACU will consist of a jacket, trousers, moisture wicking t-shirt and the brown combat boots. It will replace both versions of the BDU and the desert camouflage uniform. The black beret will be the normal

headgear for the ACU, but there is a matching patrol cap to be worn at the commander's discretion.

At \$88 per uniform, about \$30 more than the BDU, Soldiers will eventually reap gains in money and time by not having to take uniforms to the cleaners or shine boots.

The life of the ACU began in January 2003 when PEO Soldier teamed with Myhre, Master Sgt. Alex Samoba and Staff Sgt. Matt Goodine - from the 1st Stryker

Brigade, Fort Lewis, Wash.

The team looked at a number of uniforms and took the best part of each uniform and combined it into one. They built their first prototype and delivered 25 uniforms to Stryker squads at the National Training Center. After listening to their comments, the team went back to the lab and created prototype two.

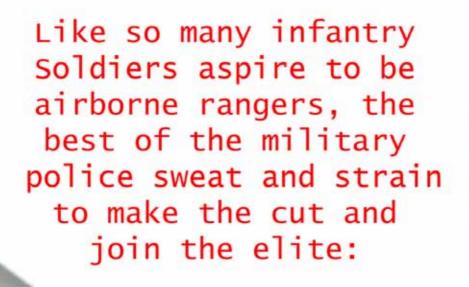
The research team watched Soldiers performing combat tasks and asked them questions about what they liked and didn't like about three versions of the uniform tested.

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston is one of the ACU's biggest supporters. He said command sergeants major had a chance to see the uniform and give advice toward the final version.

"We have not made a major change to our uniforms since the BDUs (battle dress uniforms) were introduced in the early 1980s," Preston said. "This new uniform performs well in multiple environments. Its new pockets and color designs are a result of feedback from Soldiers in combat. Every modification made on the uniform was designed with a specific purpose and not just for the sake of change."

20 Changes to your new uniform

- 1. Mandarin collar that can be worn up or down
- 2. Rank insignia centered on the front of the blouse
- 3. Velcro for wearing unit patch, skill tabs and recognition devices
- 4. Zippered front closure
- 5. Elbow pouch for internal elbow pad inserts
- 6. Knee pouch for internal knee pad inserts
- 7. Draw string leg cuff
- 8. Tilted chest pockets with Velcro closure
- 9. Three-slot pen pocket on bottom of sleeve
- 10. Velcro sleeve cuff closure
- 11. Shoulder pockets with Velcro
- 12. Forward tilted cargo pockets
- 13. Integrated blouse bellows for increased upper body mobility
- 14. Integrated Friend or Foe Identification Square on both left and right shoulder pocket flap.
- 15. Bellowed calf storage pocket on left and right leg
- 16. Moisture-wicking desert tan t-shirt
- 17. Patrol Cap with double thick bill and internal pocket
- 18. Improved hot-weather desert boot or temperateweather desert boot
- 19. Two-inch, black nylon web belt
- 20. Moisture-wicking socks



Ready in minutes, trained to finite

by Spc. Daniel Love

defending the force.



Continued from page 8

If situations get out of control, Soldiers can get injured. Be it a riot outside the gates or a hostage situation, the Soldiers in danger require special intervention. In preparation of such events, Special Reaction Teams are training to add another layer of protection to the military community.

To be assigned, top MPs from units across the Peninsula compete in gruelling tests for the few open slots.

The training is divided into two phases. Phase I, the Basic Entry Team Certification Course, covers responsibilities, priorities, and organization of Special Reaction Teams as well as equipment, tactical planning, building clearing and use of force.

"Phase I is about going inside of the building, while phase II is about what you do outside of the building," said Sgt. Gregory E. Bell Jr., an entry team leader with the Yongsan SRT. "We train on using our rifles at 100 meters in different situations in different lighting to see how that changes our performance."

Those who make it to phase II are subjected to two days of classroom

work covering advanced subjects like terminal ballistics, and then are put to the test in a two-day exercise.

"Almost everybody will pass phase I without problems, but a lot of people aren't able to pass phase II on their first try," said Bell. "Its not just tough on your body, its also mentally challenging."

Another aspect of the team that makes it so different from regular MPs is their ride. Unlike regular MPs, their primary mode of transportation is a large armored truck made to withstand up to 7.62mm rounds.

"Our vehicle provides us with protection in case someone decides to open fire on us," said Bell. "We don't have to get out of our vehicle or try to move around, and it has gun ports on the sides so we can shoot out if necessary."

SRT members have to be flexible in their missions, so they have many weapons at their disposal.

"For our missions, it's easier to get an accurate shot with an M24 (sniper rifle) than with an M4 because it has an attached scope," said Bell. "Each of our weapons has a special use, and is





Above and below: MPs conduct train

integrated into our tactics."

Since the beginning of the war on terror, SRT units have been training. The Department of the Army requires all major installations to have an SRT unit ready to respond to a potential crisis.

"If the MPs can't handle something, we're the next step," said Bell. "Our job is to make sure that we can handle any situation."

There are many events that require SRT intervention. Hostage situations, counterterrorist operations, barricaded criminals, sniper incidents and VIP protection, are some of the events that could happen, and the SRT are trained to deal with.



10 **ROK Steady**



ning using various SRT tactics. SRT Soldiers are trained to react to terrorists, snipers, or any other threat to public safety.

Even though being an SRT member is more difficult than being a regular MP, many regular MPs try to rise from the ranks and make the grade.

"It's like anybody out there in the civilian world who sees a SWAT (special weapons and tactics) team," said Bell. "They say, 'if I'm ever a policeman, I'll be on SWAT!' This is what every MP wants to do, but not many of us get the opportunity."

While the job of an SRT member usually isn't easy, it isn't without its perks.

"Its a great job for any MP," said Bell. "I think everybody who gets an opportunity to get on the team will enjoy it working with the best."



February 2005

Illegal mail will land you in jail

U.S. Customs cracking down on servicemembers and DoD civilians mailing counterfeit brand items through APO mailing system

by Pfc. Michael Noggle Staff Writer

Inder Article 134 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, the mailing and transportation of any counterfeit items is an illegal act and a punishable offense.

An issue that has been repetitive on military installations throughout South Korea has been the shipment of counterfeit items through the United States Postal Service. Any servicemember or Department of Defense civilian found violating postal laws is subject to UCMJ action and a possible court-martial.

Many of the items in the streets

of Itaewon and other locations on Peninsula are cheap imitations of the actual products which are protected under copyright and trademark laws in the United States.

"It's just a violation of U.S. code," said Sgt. 1st Class Gregory
Dickerson, provost sergeant for
Yongsan and Area II. "Pretty much
they are using it for their own benefit
and it's to gain a monetary reward.
It's a customs violation."

Dickerson stated that the biggest problem has been servicemembers and civilians mailing artificial sports jerseys in bulk quantities back to the states. Though the prices of these items are extremely low and attractive to send as gifts or for resale, servicemembers must resist.

According to Anthony S. Cuccia, postal operations with 8th PERSCOM, many counterfeit items that are sent to the United States are usually seized at the San Francisco Customs Agency and the box is destroyed. Other incidences have occurred where servicemembers on Peninsula have sent sports jerseys home and been court-martialed as recent as this year.

Another problem the customs system has faced frequently is civilians and servicemembers coming off leave from a foreign country and bringing counterfeit items back to South Korea.

"One of the biggest problems we



Pfc. Michael Noggle

Sports jerseys have become popopular items for servicemembers to purchase in South Korea. Though they look similar to the ones that sell for \$300 in the U.S., these counterfeit items sell for as low as \$20 here.

According to the United States Postal Service and the Yongsan APO mail room, the following items are things that can't be sent through the mail. -Aerosols -explicit -money material -cleaning -alcohol -cosmetics supplies -counterfeit -paints/solvents -Jewelery items -brown Korean -tobacco -pesticides products pottery

have is when servicemembers would go to China or Thailand and bring stuff back," said Dickerson. "Things such as the North Face jackets, Rolex watches and sports jerseys. Most of this affects the Korean customs system and it's simply illegal."

Sending or receiving counterfeit

items on the Peninsula is illegal and can be punishable. Punishments are handled on a case-by-case basis. A penalty can vary anywhere from the item being terminated as it passes through customs to the sender receiving jail time.

For updates and other regulations on the United States Postal Services go to http://pe.usps.gov.

USFK and ROK customs services are working together to stop

the flow of illegal items coming into the country.

For more information or updates regarding mail usage, visit the 8th PERSCOM web page at www-8perscom.korea.army.mil, or visit your area's provost marshal officer or post office regarding counterfeiting laws.





Incoming mail ends up in the Yongsan main post office.



Photo by Marine Sqt. Christopher Gimell

LCDR Mike Reineke, a 2BCT operations officer, walks with a young boy at the Al Tash, southwest of Ramadi, Refugee Camp where the brigade wanted to distribute humanitarian supplies to local families, Jan. 1.

Helping those in need

2BCT Soldiers give supplies to needy residents in Al Taash

by Sgt. 1st Class Brian Sutton 2nd Brigade Combat Team PAO

AMP RAMADI, Iraq – Second Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division Soldiers and Marines distributed humanitarian supplies to needy residents of a local community Sunday.

First Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, along with Detachment 3, 4th Civil Affairs Group, delivered blankets, food and shoes to residents of the small, Kurdish town named Al Taash, located southwest of Ramadi, who, without intervention of multinational forces, would have done without.

"Where we see a need, we try to fill that need," said Marine Lt. Col. Daniel Murner, detachment commander of Det. 3, 4th CAG. "Here we saw some people who definitely needed some food and blankets over the winter months."

During the operation, members of

the brigade passed out more than 9,500 humanitarian daily rations, 4,500 blankets and more than 3,000 pairs of shoes to more than 400 households. In all, the day-long mission served to improve the lives of more than 4,000 people.

Each family received two boxes of rations and five to 10 blankets, said Murner. Shoes were left behind for the residents to sort through and find pairs that fit them. Children also received hundreds of soccer balls, candy and other items during the mission.

"We know the village leaders were pleased, because they told us so," said Murner. He said gaining and maintaining positive relationships with the local populace is key to establishing a more safe and secure environment in Iraq.

"They were very happy we came down there to help these people," he said.

Village leaders were helpful to the mission because they were quickly

enlisted to help organize the residents and help establish order.

Al Taash is an Iranian Kurd refugee camp built by the United Nations in 1982. Refugees are mostly political refugees who are unemployed. There is no industry in the area, so the community relies on humanitarian aid for its survival. In addition to the humanitarian supply mission, the units are working on longer-term community improvement projects, such as a local health clinic and an improvement on the local water pumping station.

"(We want to show the local population) that multinational forces are not here to impose our will on them," said Murner. "We are here to improve their living conditions."

"This is an important mission for our Soldiers and the Iraqi people," said Col. Gary S. Patton, commander of 2nd Brigade Combat Team. "We are in Iraq to not only secure the area from hostile, violent insurgents, but also to try to make innocent Iraqi lives better."

2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, is currently serving under the command of 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, while serving in Iraq.



Courtesy Photo

Soldiers and Marines from the 2BCT unload supplies of shoes, blankets and rations to needy families from Al Taash.

SAVA to help sexual assault victims

Servicemembers volunteer to help those in a time of need

Story and photo by Pfc. Michael Noggle Staff Writer

With the immediate need to provide advocacy assistance to victims of sexual assault, the leaders of United States Forces Korea are establishing programs to do just that.

The Sexual Assault Victim Advocate (SAVA) program ensures that all victims of sexual assault are treated fairly and with



Hazel Johnson, an instructor for the Sexual Assault Victim Advocacy course, explains a scenario that two of her students must react to.



Air Force Col. Linda M. Cunningham, USFK assistant chief of staff, J1, speaks to the servicemembers attending the Sexual Assault Advocacy Course.

compassion during all medical, legal and nonjudicial proceedings.

"Leaders must ensure that the needs of victims are compassionately met and that they are aware of their rights, options and the resources available for their support," said Lt. Col. Michael E. Turner, 8th U.S. Army equal opportunity officer.

Servicemembers and Department of Defense civilians all across the peninsula have been volunteering and participating in the SAVA program, which is instructed by Johnson.

"As victim advocates, we have to realize that we have to be there and let the victim know we are here to get them through the whole process," said Johnson.

Johnson, a one-time advocate, conducts a week-long course to volunteers willing to become an advocate and help those in a time of need.

"The training was for us to go back to our units and make people aware of sexual assault and prevent them from becoming a victim," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Nordhues, a SAVA from Camp Long. "I would recommend this course to anyone who would want to volunteer to help people."

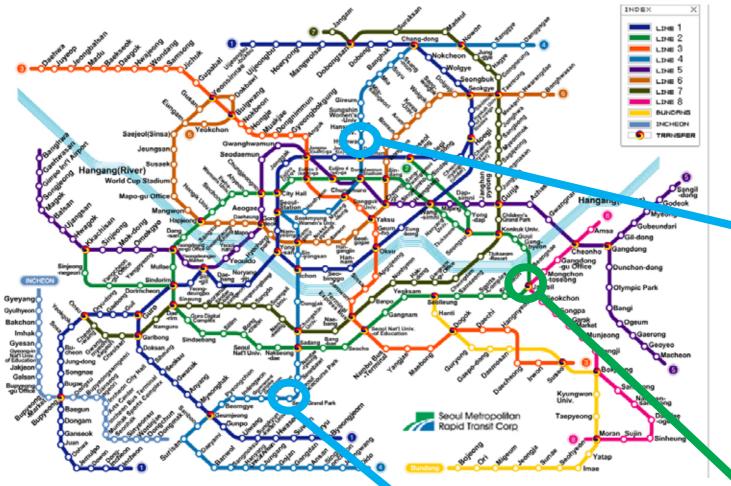
There are criteria for anyone who wishes to become an advocate in their unit. To attend training a servicemember must have the rank of sergeant through Lieutenant; have six months remaining in country upon completion of the course and a negative police record.

According to Johnson, many of the advocates in-training were compassionate, empathetic and patient, and that was the key for them to become excellent advocates to a sexually assaulted victim.

Though advocates can not prevent an assault from taking place, Johnson believes the SAVA program will have a positive impact on the peninsula and benefit all servicemembers..

"The most important thing is helping people," said Nordhues. "That is the reason why I volunteered for this program."

February 2005



Riding the Rails: Annual Subway Review

Seoul's super-efficient subterranean solution

Story and photos by Spc. Daniel Love Editor

B een riding Seoul's subway lately? If you haven't, you should start. It's often the fastest and cheapest way to get around the city.

A station is close to any point in the city, so its hard to get lost when on foot. For many who have lived here for an extended period of time, riding has become second nature.

With the Fastmoney card now available to foreigners, travelling underground in Seoul is easier than ever. You can scan the card at any subway station and it automatically deducts the correct fee from a prepaid account. The card is rechargable, and can be purchased at the ticket booth at any station.



Seoul Grand Park

Want to get out of the city? Seoul Grand Park and its miles of tree-lined pathways surrounds a lake making an ideal setting for a peaceful afternoon. A chairlift takes visitors over the lake between the entrance and the Seoul Grand Park Zoo.

Just make sure to dress for the weather.



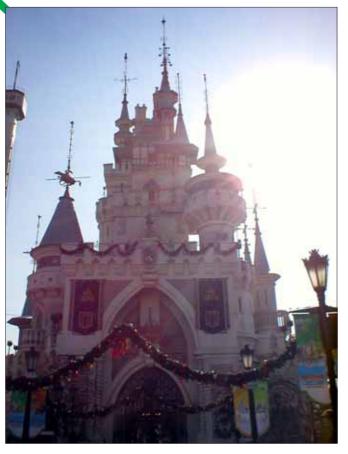
Daehakno: The University Street

This famous area is the site of the old Seoul National University, and students still come here even though the city's most famous school in moved south in 1975. The area's shops and restaurants cater to young people, with an emphasis on style and presentation.

Since the SNU's departure, Daehakno has become a kind of student's cultural hub. The area has more than 30 theaters in which plays, sometimes in English, are performed as, well as a plethora of movie theaters. In the center of the area is the place where the students gather, Marronnier Park.









Lotte World

While Korea doesn't have a Disneyland (yet), but does have tourist-friendly equivalent; Lotte World. Placed in the southwest corner of the city, Lotte World is accompanied by a large and expensive Lotte Hotel.

The theme park is open 365 days a year, because half of it is indoors. The other half, Adventure Island, is a host to the more modern of the 33 attractions that cause about 6 million visitors to flock to the park each year.

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Above: 14th MP Det. Soldiers stand in formation during their unit activation ceremony at Collier Field Oct. 15. Below left: 14th MP Det. Soldiers specialize in the use of military working dogs, as shown in a demonstration to Korean National Police. Below right: 14th MP Det. Soldiers also specialize in traffic control operations.

Multi-capable 14th MP Det activated

by Pfc. Van Tran 8th MP Brigade Public Affairs

he activation of the 14th Military Police
Detachment was commemorated in a ceremony October 15 at Yongsan Army Garrison.

Those 60 personnel who make up the detachment were assembled to address the changing law enforcement needs on the Korean Peninsula. These soldiers bring with them a wide variety of skills and expertise to the newly created unit, which they use to fulfill a broad spectrum of requirements. Some of those requirements include Traffic Investigation, Criminal Investigation, Force Protection, Customs Operations, providing Military Working Dogs and general Law Enforcement operations

This broad spectrum of requirements, which have all been met very effectively by other MP units in the

past should be made even more efficient now that they have been assembled into a single element.

The ceremony concluded with the playing the Watchdog song and the soldiers of the new detachment being marched off the field by SFC

Ranum, the colors proudly carried for the first time in more than three decades by SPC Richard Robinson, one of the Soldiers who are now part of one of the newest units here on the Korean Peninsula.

"The 14th MP Det.
was primarily created
to address the law
enforcement aspect of
the MP mission here on
the Peninsula and this
should free some of the
MP line units to focus
more on their combat
mission and field training,"
said Command Sgt. Maj.
Tommie Hollins, 8th MP
Brigade command sergeant
major.



Courtesy photo



